



*The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC)  
&  
The Montana Girls STEM Collaborative Project  
2012 Summer Conference  
August 7-9, 2012  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Missoula, Montana*



Montana *Girls*  
STEM Collaborative



[opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov)

Montana  
**Office of Public Instruction**  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

## **21st Century Community Learning Centers State Goals (ESEA Title IV B)**

The state of Montana's 21st CCLC program has three goals, listed below. Each site pursues the same goals, and annually creates measureable objectives to meet them. When working as a 21st CCLC program, sharing these goals with all staff is imperative for consistency and understanding of the purpose of 21st CCLC programs.

**Performance Goal 1:** Improve student-learning performance, for students of all ages, in one or more core academic area through consistent involvement in 21st CCLC programs.

**Performance Goal 2:** Offer a broad array of high-quality activities including youth development, drug and violence prevention, career development, art, music, recreation, technology education, and character education, which reinforce and complement the school day and positively affect school attendance, academic performance, and decrease disciplinary actions or adverse behaviors.

**Performance Goal 3:** Provide programming to engage families of enrolled 21st CCLC participants with the intent of enhancing the home/school relationship, provide opportunities for parental involvement in school, and promote resiliency through family involvement.

**Mary Ellen Earnhardt**

21st Century Community Learning Centers  
Education Program Representative  
Office of Public Instruction  
August 2012

# Schedule of Events

## AGENDA FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012

7:30 – 11:30      *Registration*..... *Rotunda North*

8:00 – 11:30      *Morning Session*

8:30-11:30      *New Directors' Meeting*

Mary Ellen Earnhardt ..... *Bitterroot River Room A&B*  
**(Required for New Directors)** – This session covers essentials for starting a new 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program. Topics include federal and state guidelines, aligning to the school day, the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC reporting database, and an overview of the Web site.

8:00 -1:00      *\*Project Learning Tree*

Lisa Bickell.....*Bitterroot River Room C*  
Project Learning Tree (PLT) is a nationally recognized curriculum that connects children to their natural environment through fun, educational, activities. Workshop participants will explore a variety of PLT activities and will receive a copy of the PLT K-8 Education Guide.

\*This is a multi-session workshop. Tuesday will encompass a working lunch, and Wednesday will have a two-hour morning session. To participate, please register for both days.

11:30 – 1:00      *New Directors/PLT Luncheon*

Only New Directors/Project Learning Tree Participants .....  
..... *Bitterroot River Courtyard*

1:00 – 4:30      *Opening Plenary Session*

*Welcome and Introductions*

*“Growing a Garden City”*

Jeremy N. Smith ..... *Salon D*  
Join us as Jeremy N. Smith, author of “Growing a Garden City,” leads an interactive discussion of unlocking people power for positive change in Montana’s diverse communities and institutions.

*Roundtable Presentations & Discussion Topics*

Mark Branger..... *Salon D*  
Participants will have their choice on which Round Tables to participate in. Round Tables will rotate every 20 minutes at the sound of a bell.

## 2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"

### AGENDA FOR TUESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 7, 2012

5:30 – 7:30

#### *Evening Plenary*

Required for all 21st CCLC grantees

#### *Afterschool Alliance*

**Eric Peterson..... Salon D**

Erik joined the Afterschool Alliance in July 2009 as Policy Director. In this position, he coordinates and advances the Afterschool Alliance's policy efforts at the federal level by helping develop policy goals and implementing strategies that advance afterschool programs for all. Erik works to build and strengthen relationships with policy makers and allied organizations to increase public support and funding for afterschool programs.

#### *Program Circuit Exploration*

**21st CCLC Programs and Advocates .....Salon D**

This session will provide the opportunity to meet other grantees, OPI staff, and advocates of afterschool from around Montana and the United States. Learn about what other programs provide for the youth in their communities. Explore other programs' ideas for engaging youth, and come away with new resources and ideas for your own program.

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING EXHIBITORS AND SPONSORS  
FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS YEAR'S 21<sup>ST</sup> CCLC CONFERENCE:**

JEREMY N SMITH  
THE ORIGINAL EGG GAME  
MAPS MEDIA INSTITUTE  
MONTANA GIRLS STEM COLLABORATIVE  
SCIGIRLS  
ACB/ART IN HISTORY, INC  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION/TOBACCO  
HEINEMANN PUBLISHING  
MiPAS EDUCATION CONSULTING  
SAE INTERNATIONAL'S A WORLD IN MOTION (AWIM)  
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)  
KURT KELLER PHOTOGRAPHY  
GIRL SCOUTS OF MONTANA AND WYOMING



2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"

AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012

8:30-10:00 ..... Breakout Session I

*E-Grants and Accounting for 21st Century Community Learning Center Funds*

Kate Vatter & Charlotte McMilin ..... Bitterroot River Room A & B

**(Required for New Directors)** – Attend this session for a complete overview of the E-Grants System: E-Grants “A – Z.” This session will include everything you need to know about the application process, from the technical (submitting and amending applications) to the fiscal (the cash request process and closing out the grant year). **BONUS:** OPI staff will provide tips on staying up-to-date with your budget and spending your grant dollars!

*\*8:00 AM – 10:00 AM: Project Learning Tree*

Lisa Bickell ..... Bitterroot River Room C

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is a nationally recognized curriculum that connects children to their natural environment through fun, educational, activities. Workshop participants will explore a variety of PLT activities and will receive a copy of the PLT K-8 Education Guide.

**\*NOTE:** This is a multi-session workshop. Tuesday will encompass a working lunch, and Wednesday will have a two-hour morning session. To participate, please register for both days.

*Graduation Matters Montana*

Deb Halliday ..... Salon C

Graduation Matters Montana encourages locally designed strategies to ensure every student graduates from high school college/career ready. Come explore the critical role after school can play in this work.

*Afterschool For All: Making the Case to Policy Makers, Your Community and the Public*

Eric Peterson ..... Salon E

How can we build support for afterschool programs in your community and nationally? We will discuss federal afterschool policy and the latest research to hone messaging and outreach to help grow the afterschool movement.

*Communicate. Collaborate. Celebrate!*

Wendy Weisbart & Danielle Bowen ..... Salon F

Afterschool programs are a natural way to link parents, schools and communities. Learn a variety of techniques to link school personnel, families, and communities with the focus on student success, parental participation, and building on community involvement. Gain resources and a broad array of ideas to foster successful collaborations, which results in quality programming. Let's Collaborate and Celebrate!



*Best Practices in STEM Activities/Introduction to the Montana Girls STEM Collaborative Project*

Panel discussion presented by Montana Girls STEM Collaborative Project..... Salon G

Learn about the Montana Girls STEM Collaborative Project, a new NSF-funded effort to support STEM education for girls in Montana, and how it can help you. Also, pick up some new ideas for STEM education from our best practices panelists.



*2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"*

**AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012**

**10:00 – 10:20 ..... Break**

Sponsored by Montana Girls STEM Collaborative Project ..... *Rotunda North & South*

**10:20 - 12:00 ..... Breakout Session II**

*The Afterschool Snack Program and the Summer Food Service Program in Montana*

Emily Dunklee ..... *Bitterroot River Room A & B*

**(Required for New Directors)** - Learn how the Afterschool Snack Program and Summer Food Service Program can help provide nutritious snacks and meals to children during non-school time.

*Strategies for Engaging Community Partners and Champions; Who Can Promote the Value of Investing in Safe and Structured Afterschool time*

Heather Margolis ..... *Bitterroot River Room C*

Cultivating reciprocal partnerships with the chamber of commerce, parents, K-16 administrators, and policy makers helps us convey how afterschool programs keeps kids safe, inspires students to learn and helps working families.

*Uniting Afterschool Programs with 4-H Youth Development*

Katelyn Andersen and Allison Flynn ..... *Salon C*

Participants in this workshop will become aware of resources offered by MSU Extension through 4-H Youth Development Programs. These programs can create valuable partnerships to enhance the experiential learning of youth from robotics to agriculture. Participants will partake in hands-on activities.

*Afterschool For All: Making the Case to Policy Makers, Your Community and the Public*

Eric Peterson ..... *Salon E*

How can we build support for afterschool programs in your community and nationally? We will discuss federal afterschool policy and the latest research to hone messaging and outreach to help grow the afterschool movement.

*You've Got It! So Use It! Professional Development in a Creative Way*

Wendy Weisbart & Danielle Bowen ..... *Salon F*

Utilizing staff talents through team building. This session will help all staff see their role as an afterschool educator. See the talents, knowledge, skills, and life experiences of staff as a solid foundation for helping students experience unique learning. When all staff commit to building their skills together, everyone benefits.



*In Their Own Words: What Girls Say About Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math*

Panel discussion presented by Montana Girls STEM Collaborative Project..... *Salon G*

Though we develop STEM programs for youth, we may not always know how they feel about our ideas. Meet our panel of girls from around Montana who will share their diverse ideas about STEM education.

# 2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"

## AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012

**12:00 -1:30 .....Lunch**

 **Lisa Regalla – SciGirls’ Seven: Strategies to Engage Girls in STEM**

**Salon D**

The Emmy-award winning, PBS Kids series, *SciGirls*, emphasizes current research on strategies (the SciGirls Seven) proven to increase girls’ engagement in STEM. Participants will leave with practical tips for implementation.

**1:45 – 3:15 ..... Breakout Session III**

### *Preparing Today’s Students for Tomorrow’s Montana Workplace*

**Patricia A Schneider.....Bitterroot River Room A & B**

Companies and community partners of all sizes recognize the importance of cultivating a workforce with a solid foundation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). **SAE International’s A WORLD IN MOTION (AWIM)** program is designed to engage, excite, and encourage all students to explore STEM subjects and careers. Participants will enjoy a hands-on session experiencing a comprehensive example of this National Gold Standard K-12 and Collegiate Program. Come see, today, what tomorrow will be like today in any one of Montana’s communities and schools.

### *Bring the World to the Classroom*

**Kay Fladstol..... Bitterroot River Room C**

Come discover how easy it is to bring face-to-face real-life experiences to the classroom using video conferencing. You will learn how to dial, collaborate, and connect to other teachers and content providers.

### *Connecting Students to Montana Fish & Wildlife through STEM*

**Laurie Evarts .....Salon C**

Learn about MT FWP resources for teachers and how to incorporate STEM into teaching about Montana Fish & Wildlife.

### *Administrative Panel: Partnering with the School Day*

**Steve York, Dave Cluff, Kathleen Dent, Cathy Binando, Dick Trerise.....Salon E**

Hear from school day administrators the challenges and benefits of creating strong relationships between school day and after school. In this Q and A session, we will cover some of the topics that all programs deal with: budgets, school initiatives, Special Ed laws and regulations, and administrator expectations and responsibilities.

### *It’s Time to Brag! Learn How to Promote Your Program*

**Wendy Weisbart & Danielle Bowen ..... Salon F**

Gather and utilize your program data to tell your story, apply for funding, and enhance the quality of your program. We will share insights on what data should be collected, ways to collect the data and most importantly, HOW to use that data to highlight your successes.

 **Get Hands-on with STEM: SciGirls Style!**

**Lisa Regalla..... Salon G**

Join the PBS series *SciGirls* in a hands-on, minds-on introduction to the engineering design process. Gain confidence with engineering and technology activities that will inspire your youth to explore STEM.

2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"

AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012

3:15 – 3:35 ..... Break

Sponsored by Vision-Net ..... Rotunda North & South

3:35 – 5:05 ..... Breakout Session IV

*Creative Seeing and Thinking Through Photography*

Kurt Keller ..... Bitterroot River Room A & B

Learn to express your creativity through photography by using the camera to create art and learn math and science principles.

*Making the Most of Your Community!*

Brian Dennis and Tim Brurud ..... Bitterroot River Room C

Every community has a variety of resources which can improve the quality of every program's experience. Tim & Brian lead two successful Boys & Girls Clubs from distinctly different sized communities. They will be sharing their approach to community partnerships and some of the lessons they have learned over the years.



*What's Next for Montana Girl's STEM Collaborative Project?*

Suzi Taylor, Martha Peters, and Holly Truitt ..... Bitterroot River Courtyard

Join us for an open discussion about the MGSCP's future. All are welcome to join in as we discuss plans and opportunities. (Note: if there is bad weather, meet in the Clark Fork River Boardroom.)

*Creating "Treasures" from Trash – teaching kids new ways of looking at old stuff*

Carol Stratemeyer ..... Salon C

"Treasure" comes in many forms and "going green" presents youth with unimaginable creativity. Lessons in repurposing "junk" provides youth and educators opportunities to utilize STEM in fun and useful projects. Too often, we rely on "canned" programs that are expensive and not always applicable to our unique Montana communities – by keeping youth engaged in the creative process we encourage critical thinking by looking for alternatives to expensive leisure-time pursuits. Participants will create a variety of projects in a fast-paced session designed to "teach the teacher."

*Navigating the Adolescent World*

Kim York ..... Salon E

Adolescents make decisions based on...well... who knows? Sometimes their decisions are good sometimes not so good. But, when you ask them how they decided what to do, often times it is based on: what their friends are doing; what their parents expect; what their coach wants; what their boyfriend/girlfriend wants; curiosity or fitting in with use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco; or it felt like the thing to do. Teens feel the emotional/physical/mental/behavioral stress of navigating their world when often it doesn't really make much sense to them. We will explore a strategy of having them define what they stand for, how to make value-based decisions, and navigate their world in a healthy way. This will be an interactive workshop with your participation in the process of defining your dreams, identifying your heroes, setting up the values of what you stand for, using the value-based decision making process, identifying stressors and developing healthy coping strategies.

(Session IV continued on next page)



2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"

AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012

3:35 – 5:05 ..... Breakout Session IV-continued

*Using Hands-On / Standards-Based Projects to Spark Learning!*

Wendy Weisbart ..... Salon F  
Specifically designed for Before School / After School Programs, **ART IN HISTORY, INC. / ACROSS CURRICULUM BOUNDARIES** provides hands-on, brain-based products and professional development sessions, which utilize supplemental curriculum that is aligned to a general mix of both individual state standards and national standards for Social Studies, English, and the Fine Arts.

*"Growing Minds and Growing Food"*

Brent Sarchet, Allison Flynn, and Katelyn Andersen ..... Salon G  
Participants attending this workshop will learn how to build a garden from start, learn about funding opportunities, and learn about the various gardening curriculums and educational program ideas that are available.

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KURT KELLER PHOTOGRAPHY  
GIRL SCOUTS OF MONTANA AND WYOMING

# 2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"

## AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2012

### 8:30 – 10:00..... Breakout Session V

#### *Realizing the Value of Community Learning Centers to Response to Intervention*

Deb Park.....Bitterroot River Room A & B

This session will provide an overview of Response to Intervention with particular focus on the important role that Community Learning Centers can provide for information gathering as well as both a universal/Tier I service, and early intervention/Tier 2 supports. Examples will be shared as well as time will be provided for participant sharing.

#### *Ecology Project International 's Experiential Education Programs*

Erin D. Clark .....Bitterroot River Room C

This session will present an overview of how the Ecology Project International's (EPI) programs work toward improving and inspiring science education and conservation. EPI is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing place-based, ecological education partnerships between local experts and high school students to address critical conservation issues. Hear how students get an opportunity to participate in experiential education projects in places such as Yellowstone National Park, the Galapagos, South America and more.

#### *Creating "Treasures" from Trash – teaching kids new ways of looking at old stuff*

Carol Stratemeyer .....Salon C

"Treasure" comes in many forms and "going green" presents youth with unimaginable creativity. Lessons in repurposing "junk" provides youth and educators opportunities to utilize STEM in fun and useful projects. Too often, we rely on "canned" programs that are expensive and not always applicable to our unique Montana communities – by keeping youth engaged in the creative process we encourage critical thinking by looking for alternatives to expensive leisure-time pursuits. Participants will create a variety of projects in a fast-paced session designed to "teach the teacher."

#### *A Systems Approach to Evaluation*

Donna White .....Salon E

This session is for directors, evaluators, and anyone interested in reflecting on considerations for your agency's evaluation /outcomes of 21st CCLC programs. Donna will help you with your awareness and review of a system approach to evaluation. She encourages you to bring in your team (directors, teachers, data personnel, etc.) to consider your evaluation process and issues that impact and influence the agency outcomes.

#### *Bring Reading to Life with Reflections, Art and Acting*

Rae Herman and Mary Ellen Earnhardt.....Salon F

Educators will learn how help reading become more exciting for their students through the use of art, acting, & reflecting.

This will be a hands on workshop where we will work with books such as "A Snow Day", "The Hungry Caterpillar", "The Long Journey Home", and "Where the Wild Things Are" . We will be doing some art lessons, acting and reflecting so come prepared to have fun and work.

(Session V continued on next page)

2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"

AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2012

8:30 – 10:00.....Breakout Session V-continued  
*Grow and Know with Montana Agriculture*

Lorri Brenneman ..... Salon G  
“Hands on, minds on” math, science, art and social studies lessons and activities aligned to Montana education standards which uses easily gathered materials. Educational fun for students, appreciated by parents!

10:00 – 10:20 ..... Break

10:20 – 12:00.....Breakout Session VI  
*Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Montana Workplace*

Patricia A Schneider.....Bitterroot River Room A & B  
Companies and community partners of all sizes recognize the importance of cultivating a workforce with a solid foundation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). SAE International's A WORLD IN MOTION (AWIM) program is designed to engage, excite, and encourage all students to explore STEM subjects and careers. Participants will enjoy a hands-on session experiencing a comprehensive example of this National Gold Standard K-12 and Collegiate Program. Come see, today, what tomorrow will be like today in any one of Montana's communities and schools.

10:00 AM-12:00 PM: *Using Common Core Standards and Engaging Students in Doing Math*

Jean Howard .....Bitterroot River Room C  
Participants will learn how the Standards for Mathematical Practice within the Montana Common Core Standards can engage children in enjoying math. Participants will enjoy engaging in a great math activity, view students engaged in doing mathematics, discuss the habits of mind that children at all levels possess, and decide on activities they can use to promote mathematical thinkers by focusing on math practices.

*Montana Behavioral Initiative*

Denielle Miller ..... Salon C  
MBI is a proactive approach of creating behavioral supports and a social culture that establishes social, emotional, and academic success for all students. MBI uses a 3-tiered system of support and a problem solving process to assist programs in meeting the needs of, and effectively educating, all students.

*Theatre Games*

Montana Children's Theatre Staff ..... Salon E  
This informative workshop is geared toward adult educators, childcare specialists and anyone who works with kids. Incorporating innovative exercises and theatre games, this hands-on, fun-filled workshop is designed as a guide to tap the creativity and spontaneity of children of all ages. Bring a notepad, pencil, and imagination.  
Participants will find fun and creative ways to enhance both classroom management, as well as teamwork. The two MCT presenters will introduce many different types of theatre games, give a brief explanation, and involve participants providing a hands-on experience. There will be time for questions after each exercise is introduced and participants will leave with a handout briefly describing each game and suggested age group.

(Session VI continued on next page)

# 2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"

## AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2012

### 10:20-12:00 ..... Breakout Session VI-continued

#### *Water Education Resources – Trunks and More*

Stephanie McGinnis ..... Salon F

Come and learn about several teaching trunks Montana Watercourse offers. Trunks that focus on Ground Water and Stream Ecology will be demonstrated and discussion will follow. Trunks have everything needed to conduct a water education class.

#### *GEMS – Montana's Statewide Longitudinal Data System*

Jamey Ereth and Sue Mohr ..... Salon G

The GEMS system is OPI's solution for providing data-driven decision-making support for Montana's education stakeholders. Members of the GEMS project team will provide an overview and demonstration of the GEMS system and web portal.

### 12:00 - 2:00 ..... Lunch/Closing Plenary Session

Salon D

#### *Montana Afterschool Network Discussion*

Carol Townsend..... Salon D

Montana has an opportunity to develop an afterschool program network to advocate for afterschool policy development and to initiate policies that will secure resources needed to sustain school-based, school-linked afterschool programs. Join this discussion and brainstorming session on developing this statewide afterschool network.

Mary Ellen Earnhardt..... Salon D

Mary Ellen will give closing remarks. **Please do not leave until you have completed the conference evaluation form**, and leave them on the table for the 21st CCLC staff to collect.

### 2:00..... Adjourn

Thank you for attending the 2012 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC  
and  
the Montana Girls STEM Collaborative summer conference.



## *2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"*

### *Biographies*

**Allison Flynn** serves as an Extension Agent for MSU Extension. She is the 4-H and Youth Development Extension Agent in Lewis and Clark County, in Helena, Montana. She has been in the position for over two years and has served as a 4-H/Youth Development Educator for the University of Wyoming in Sheridan prior to coming to Helena. She enjoys reaching out to new non-traditional 4-H partnerships, which create a positive impact on youth in the communities she serves.

**Brent Sarchet** is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent in Lewis and Clark County, in Helena, Montana.

**Brian Dennis**, Chief Professional Officer, Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County, is responsible for an organization which serves over 600 kids per day at four locations and employs nearly 50 full and part-time professionals. Under his leadership, the organization has worked to build community partnerships, which ultimately improve the quality and depth of each member's experience. The Club partners with organizations across the community and provides a variety of added benefits to the Club, which include volunteer staffing, funding, professional development and support for back-office operations.

Brian lives in Laurel with his wife and three children with the oldest two attending the Club. In his spare time he is a Captain with the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department.

**Carol Stratemeyer** has been the Project Director for Noxon's 21st Century Community Learning Center grant for three years after a "practice" retirement from a career of many years as a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for the Montana Supreme Court. After creating many programs for at-risk youth, the switch to public school programming was a chance to bring what she learned about engaging hard-to-reach youth in teaching life beyond the classroom. Carol graduated from the University of Montana with bachelor degrees in Journalism and Sociology/Criminology and has acquired extensive credits and accreditations from the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada; the Behavioral Science Institute in Seattle, Washington; National Train-the-Trainer certification from the University of Arizona and numerous drug/alcohol prevention certificates. A kid-at-heart, Carol is most comfortable learning new ways to teach the love of learning – both to children and adults – teaching Beading for Noxon's Adult Education. A community advocate, Carol currently is on the Board of Directors at the Noxon Food Bank and serves as school/community liaison.

**Carol Townsend** is the President and CEO of Greater Gallatin United Way, located in Bozeman. For 15 years, she has been the administrator of Greater Gallatin United Way kidsLINK, a partnership with schools and communities that provide for children at 25 afterschool sites. Carol is introducing the panel discussion regarding the potential of developing a Montana Afterschool Network.

**Charlotte McMilin** is a Federal Grants Accountant. She has worked at the Office of Public Instruction as a Grant Accountant for the past five years. Charlotte oversees approximately six major federal grants for the OPI. She has over 25 years of accounting experience from public accounting to working for nonprofit organizations.

**Danielle Bowen** creates statewide synergy to engage key decision makers as she collaborates with various programs and businesses to implement high quality programs throughout the state. Danielle's experience as a recreation leader, site coordinator, and Washoe County School District Director for afterschool programs has assisted her role to advocate and educate in both local communities and statewide.



## *2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"*

### *Biographies, Continued*

**Deborah Halliday** is Policy Advisor to State Superintendent Denise Juneau. She serves as the Superintendent's point person for Graduation Matters Montana, and helped to design Montana Schools of Promise, which seeks to improve the state's most struggling schools. Ms. Halliday brings over 20 years' experience in public policy and community-based program design, and holds an MPA from Columbia University.

**Deb Park** was first a classroom teacher, a school counselor for over 12 years, and an administrator who has worked closely with key stakeholders to create, enhance, and sustain strong educational systems. Deb has spent most of her career in Oregon where she has been a leader in the implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support, Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling, and Response to Intervention. Deb has been a product of reduced educational funding, so after having had her positions reduced or eliminated multiple times, she moved to Montana where she is excited to be in a position with the Office of Public Instruction focused on systems development and sustainability. She is a life-long learner, and is finishing up a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership with a focus on systemic efforts to meet the needs of all students.

**Denielle Miller** retired after 25 years of teaching children with special needs. She taught students ages 3-21. Denielle received her bachelor's and master's from Montana State University-Billings. She is currently working for Side-by-Side K-12 Consulting and for the Office of Public Instruction as a consultant for the Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) and Response to Intervention (RTI). Denielle trains and assists schools in setting up school-wide positive behavior interventions, and supports and creates literacy rich environments. She is an adjunct professor in the special education department for the U of M-Western.

**Donna White** has a Doctor of Education, EdD, in K-12 administration and program evaluation. She has been an educator in special education, high school math, and program administration, with federal grants in Start Up. Ten years ago, she started her consulting business, kiDWorks. She conducts program and grant evaluations, and outcome and strategic planning projects.

**Emily Dunklee** is a Child Nutrition Program Specialist at the Office of Public Instruction. She conducts school nutrition reviews and provides technical assistance and training to schools across Montana to help ensure all children have access to tasty, healthy, and affordable school meals.

**Erik Peterson, Tuesday Evening Speaker**, joined the Afterschool Alliance in July 2009 as Policy Director. In this position, he coordinates and advances the Afterschool Alliance's policy efforts at the federal level by helping develop policy goals and implementing strategies that advance afterschool programs for all. Erik works to build and strengthen relationships with policy makers and allied organizations to increase public support and funding for afterschool programs. Prior to coming to the Afterschool Alliance Erik served as Director of Public Awareness in the Government Affairs Center of the School Nutrition Association (SNA.) Prior to working for the SNA, he organized community gardens, nutrition classes and farmers markets in Central Texas as both a VISTA and staff for the Sustainable Food Center. He originally hails from Texas, and received his master's in Public Affairs from the LBJ School at the University of Texas, as well as a bachelor degree from Georgetown University. He is married and has two sons who enjoy participating in Campagna Kids afterschool program in Alexandria, Virginia.

## 2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"

### *Biographies, Continued*

**Erin Clark** brings a background in forest research and wilderness monitoring with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to EPI's Montana Program. A New York native, she's left behind eastern white pines to embrace the whitebark pine and all of its associated critters. Her field work as a Master of Forest Science student at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies allowed her to study forest systems in Montana, Oregon, Connecticut, Alabama, Newfoundland, Slovenia, Germany, and Croatia. When it comes to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Erin is equally enamored of Yellowstone's history, geothermal features, and fire ecology. When not at the office, you might find her on horseback in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, trail running, or enjoying a good book.

**Heather Margolis** has nearly two decades of experience working in the field of education, youth development, and national service. She is the Executive Director of Montana Education Partnership (MEP), a non-profit organization in Helena. MEP works with various stakeholders to integrate educational best practices to spark students' intellectual curiosity, academic engagement and foster strong community connections. Margolis is an AmeriCorps alumnus and has her undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado Boulder and her master's degree in Education from New York University's Steinhardt School of Education. After teaching in New York and Philadelphia, Margolis left the classroom to work for City Year Greater Philadelphia, training corps members to provide in school service-learning and academic support as well as facilitate structured after school programs. In 2005, Margolis moved to Washington, DC, taking on a new role as the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the National Service-Learning Partnership at AED, managing national grants for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and State Farm Foundation. Now, Heather and her husband live in Helena, Montana and have two sons.

**Holly Truitt** directs The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area, an interactive science museum that shares on-site and mobile exhibit-based education with over 39,000 Montanans annually. In addition, Truitt co-leads the Montana Girls STEM Collaborative Project and is a principal investigator on the NIH-funded Big Sky Brain Project. She also teaches in The University of Montana's Department of Communication Studies. Truitt has a Master of Science from The University of Montana. She is passionate about using communication and behavior change strategies to help inspire and educate Montana's next generation.

**Jamey Ereth** is the GEMS Senior Project Manager for the OPI's IT Division. She has been with the OPI since May 2010. She has extensive experience procuring, building and implementing large data systems, programming, and project management. Additionally, she jointly manages the K12 Data warehouse project specifically overseeing the development and implementation of the OPI data governance process.

**Jean Howard** is the mathematics curriculum specialist for the OPI. Although she has been the executive director of the Montana Learning Center and written math materials, she most enjoyed teaching seventh graders. Jean has been working with curriculum and standards for many years, and has been focusing on how elementary students learn math as well as how learning progresses across the grades. She has presented on various topics at a local, state, and national level.

**Jeremy N. Smith, Opening Speaker**, is an award-winning writer and popular public speaker whose articles have appeared in *Gourmet*, *Sunset*, *Montana Magazine*, and the *Chicago Tribune*, among many other publications. His new book, *Growing a Garden City*, was selected as one of *Booklist's* top 10 books on the environment for 2011. He lives and works in Missoula, Montana.

## *2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"*

### *Biographies, Continued*

**Karen Peterson**, M.Ed. is CEO of the EdLab Group and has been active in education for over 20 years as a classroom teacher, university instructor, pre-service and in-service teacher educator, program administrator, and researcher. She is Principal Investigator for the National Girls Collaborative Project and for SciGirls – A National TV Series, the Computer Science Collaboration Project, and Bio-ITEST: New Frontiers in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, all of which are funded by the National Science Foundation. These projects all address gender, racial and socioeconomic underrepresentation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Peterson has published in The Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering and has co-authored evaluation reports and promising practices reports in informal information technology education for girls for the National Center for Women & Information Technology and the Girl Scouts of the USA.

**Kate Vatter**, OPI's E-Grants Coordinator, provides assistance and technical support for all E-Grants related issues, in addition to offering user trainings on the state and federal programs hosted on E-Grants. She has prior experience in grants management, information technology, and nonprofit development.

**Katelyn Andersen** serves as an Extension Agent for MSU Extension. Katelyn is an agent for Ravalli County in Hamilton, Montana where she has worked in both 4-H Youth Development and Family Consumer Sciences since 2006. She enjoys reaching out to new non-traditional 4-H partnerships, which create a positive impact on youth in the communities she serves.

**Kay Fladstol** was an Elementary Teacher from 1984 – 2009 teaching grades K-5 in computer classes. During 2009, she also worked as Darby's IT for the district. Since 2009, Kay has worked as the Content Coordinator for Vision Net, working with over 50 schools and eight colleges. She facilitates the use of videoconferencing equipment. Kay enables authors, experts, scientists, and global peers to come to the classroom via videoconference. Kay's experience has opened up a whole new world of collaborative learning for educators and students.

**Kim York** has a Masters of Science in Community and Social Services with a focus in school-based social work. She is a strong advocate for RTI and the philosophy of the wraparound concept for our at-risk students believing that by providing supports and advocating for students who struggle to succeed at school, we can give them hope and encouragement to overcome their barriers, graduate and become career and life ready.

**Kurt Keller** is a commercial and fine art photographer. His photographic work has been in numerous exhibits and international shows. Kurt was born and raised in Northeast Ohio where he found his passion for photography. He received an associate's degree in photography from the Rochester Institute of Technology. He then attended Kent State University and finished his bachelor's degree in Photographic Illustration. After graduation, he moved west to Helena, Montana to discover the landscapes of the west.

Kurt has been teaching photography to children and adults for the last 16 years. He has taught topics ranging from pinhole photography and camera construction, the black and white darkroom to Photoshop and the digital darkroom. Kurt Keller enjoys photographing in black and white, and has taken on a broad range of subject matter. He first focused on the wildlands of the country and then turned his focus on suburban and rural America. He has developed a passion for photographing people and their environs. For a look in a new direction, some of Kurt's recent work has been in color and taken on a surreal and dreamlike quality.

## *2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"*

### *Biographies, Continued*

**Laurie Evarts** is the Education Program Manager for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Wild Montana – Outdoor Learning Center. Laurie has a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction – Science Education. Laurie has over five years of experience in conservation education, including curriculum and instruction, program development, and evaluation. She has five year's experience educating students who are considered at-risk, a minority, or cognitively and physically disabled. Laurie has a passion for natural resources and outdoor recreation.

**Lisa Bickell** is the Education Director for the Montana Natural History Center and serves on the Montana Project Learning Tree Steering Committee. Lisa has more than 10 years experience teaching in non-formal outdoor programs in Montana, Colorado, Washington, and Minnesota for audiences of school children, adults, and educators.

**Dr. Lisa Regalla, Luncheon Speaker**, is the Manager of Science Content and Outreach at tpt, Twin Cities Public Television. She joined tpt for the seventh season of the Emmy-award winning PBS children's series DragonflyTV. With the new Emmy-award winning series SciGirls, she has created investigations for the series along with a gender equity handbook (SciGirls Seven: How to Engage Girls in STEM), Activity Guides and a STEM board game. As part of managing the national outreach initiative for the series, she conducts extensive professional development workshops in gender equity and inquiry-based science and engineering for teachers, museum educators, and after-school program leaders.

Lisa received her doctorate in chemistry from the University of Florida in 2007. She has a passion for communicating science to both children and adults, and was the Manager of School Partnerships and Outreach Program Coordinator at the Da Vinci Science Center in Pennsylvania. She also served as an Education Associate at the Museum of Science, Boston, specializing in informing the public on nanoscale science and technology.

**Lorri Brenneman** works as the Agriculture Literacy Specialist for the Montana Department of Agriculture. Lorri taught school prior to taking this position. She earned a Bachelor's degree in fine arts and plant sciences from MSU Bozeman, and an associate of science degree at Flathead Valley Community College. Lorri also holds a Master's degree from MSU Bozeman in Education and Curriculum Instruction with further studies in curriculum development. Lorri has been involved in agriculture education for Montana for 10 years, and focuses her work on accurate agriculture education through hands on methods. Prior to working for the Department of Agriculture, Lorri taught school in a small Montana community.

**Mark Branger** has been director of Kid Connection at Huntley Project Schools for eight years and has been a business educator and a curriculum and technology specialist for over 25 years. He taught at Melstone and is currently at Huntley Project. He received his Master in Education in Instructional Technology. Mark is currently the Technology and Assessment Director at Huntley Project Schools. He has a great love for children and has great experience as a technology integration specialist.

**Martha Peters** is the managing director of Montana NSF EPSCoR and co-director of the Montana Girls STEM Collaborative. EPSCoR, Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, is a statewide program that builds science capacity through support of university faculty and outreach programs that bring STEM activities and research to the public. She has a background in biology and higher education administration and has been with EPSCoR for six years.

## *2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"*

### *Biographies, Continued*

**Mary Ellen Earnhardt** has been in education for over 25 years and has taught K-college. To help pay her way through college, she was a storyteller. Mary Ellen has used these skills in teaching students how to read. Mary Ellen is now Montana's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Education Representative for the Office of Public Instruction in Helena, Montana.

**Pat A. Schneider** is a Master Teacher for SAE International's AWIM program. Pat is also the founder of MiPAS Educational Consulting Firm. Her firm coupled with SAE's award winning STEM programs are directly involved in the Rocky Mountain AWIM Initiative (RMAI) started by Arne Siegel, Montana Ambassador. Pat is a consummate educator for 37 years in K-12 education and currently as a college professor. She works with Montana's school districts to develop a K-12 STEM education outreach initiative with important and lasting results by bringing AWIM programs, community volunteers, and teachers together.

**Rae Herman** has been involved in education for over 20 years has a Para-educator and 21st CCLC leader. Rae grew up on a ranch in northern Montana. She is still ranching and teaching. Rae has two children.

**Ria Overholt** has been a program director for seven years. Her love for the children in the community constantly drives her to find new avenues and ways of serving them better.

**Stephanie McGinnis** is the Coordinator of Education and Outreach at Montana Watercourse, a statewide water education program. Throughout her career, Stephanie has been heavily involved in environmental education and outreach, working for public schools, state and federal agencies, and currently as an adjunct faculty member at MSU. She has also conducted research in Montana and Wyoming focusing on the conservation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems.

**Sue Mohr** is the Division Administrator for the OPI's Measurement and Accountability Division. Her division is responsible for the state's Student Information System, AIM (Achievement in Montana), and the accountability tracking system for calculating school performance in Montana. Sue provides direction, guidance, and support in data collections and analyses for federal and state reporting requirements, and oversees other reporting requirements and analyses in collections such as EDEN reporting, home-school information, graduation completion, and dropout and assessment data. She also directs Montana's participation in the NAEP assessment in the "Nation's Report Card."

She jointly manages the K12 Data warehouse project specifically overseeing the development and implementation of the OPI data governance process.

**Suzi Taylor** works at Montana State University, where she is assistant director for outreach and communications for MSU's Extended University. She is also a co-leader of the newly founded Montana STEM Girls Collaborative Project, an NSF-funded effort that helps increase collaboration among organizations that serve girls in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math. At MSU, Suzi helps identify and publicize academic programs for non-traditional students, and develops public outreach programs in fields such as astrobiology, climate science, and nanotechnology.



## *2012 21st CCLC Summer Conference "Uniting Montana Treasures"*

### *Biographies, Continued*

**Tim Brurud** is the Director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line in Havre, Montana. Before working in afterschool, Tim spent five years as a high school science teacher in rural Montana schools. Tim has been very involved in afterschool, both in Montana and nationally, serving as a regional director for the Hi-Line afterschool group, as Vice-Chair of the Governor's Youth Justice Council, a national Afterschool Ambassador for the Afterschool Alliance. He has recently been selected as one of the 15 inaugural members of the White-Riley-Peterson Policy Fellowship. Tim is happily married to his wife of 23 years and has four children who keep him very busy and (since they are all now teenagers) in a near constant state of panic.

**Wendy Weisbart** has been involved with out-of-school time programming for 14 years as a 21st Century Community Learning Center Site Coordinator and a District Facilitator for over 25 sites in Las Vegas, Nevada. Wendy's focus is creating collaboration through effective communication tools as a key to student success. Wendy knows it takes true partnerships with schools, families, and community organizations to implement a highly positive, effective program.

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